

**STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE SC PANDEMIC INFLUENZA  
ETHICS TASKFORCE  
OCTOBER 7, 2008  
SC HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION**

Welcome and Introductions were given by:

Dr. Lisa Waddell, Deputy Commissioner for Health Services, SCDHEC  
Dr. Max Learner, Director, Ofc of Public Health Preparedness, SCDHEC

Housekeeping and Logistics were given by:

Phyllis Beasley, State Pan Flu Response Coordinator, Ofc of Public Health  
Preparedness, SCDHEC

Round Robin Introductions were made. Nineteen were present; two via conference call. (sign in sheet is attached to minutes) Any member requesting mileage reimbursement needs to complete a W-9 form and give to Donna Culbreath for processing.

### **Overview and Background**

Dr. Learner and Ms. Beasley shared the introductory overview and brief history of the organizational structure of this Steering Committee. Both thanked the committee members for volunteering to be part of this effort as it will deal with difficult and challenging issues. We may face challenges beyond our capabilities. The committee will have a one year commitment to develop guidelines/draft white paper as the pan flu funds conclude in August 2009.

The morning's agenda focused on several presentations that gave overviews of national and South Carolina issues on Pan Flu. The afternoon session was devoted to open discussion to establish goals, tasks, extending the participant list and meeting schedules for the full TaskForce.

All power point presentations are included on the diskette given as part of the meeting handouts.

### **Max Learner, PhD: Overview of SC Pan Flu Ethics Taskforce and Steering Committee**

- Purpose of the committee is to provide a forum for discussion of ethical issues in Pan Flu planning and preparedness

- Pan Flu planning started in November 2005 with all 50 states having done extensive planning. Since 2005, all states have received funding through CDC.
- Briefed committee on what South Carolina has been doing to prepare and identified some ethical issues in Pan Flu planning and response
- Outlined the scope of work, tasks and outcomes of this committee
  - . monthly Steering Committee meetings
  - . bi-monthly Task Force meetings
  - . formation of work groups for specific issues
  - . public forums for community input
  - . State Pan Flu Ethics Summit in July 2009 – who should attend ?
  - . white paper developed with guidance and recommendations
  - . possible regulations and/or legislation
  - . established time table for committee

**Dr. Robert Ball, Dr. Tom Fabian, Dr. Covia Stanley, Dr. Phil Schneider: Pan Flu Ethics Panel; National Pan Flu Ethics Summit 7.08**

- Drs. Ball and Stanley started this presentation by giving an overview of SC DHEC's Region 6 Pan Flu Ethics Panel which was formed approximately 18 months ago. Region 6 has done considerable work in working with their community and all the hospitals in Region 6; expressed his concern that the mindset needs to be changed from "if" to "when".
- Presentation addressed what major impact a Pan Flu would have on our state and why it is so important to look at altered standards of care and ethical issues
- Dr. Schneider explained the goals of the treatment priorities for this panel and the colored coded critical care triage protocol patterned after the military triage colors
- Dr. Fabian spoke to the recent "The 2008 Summit of the States" held in Indianapolis, IN, sponsored by ASTHO, Indiana State Dept of Health, Indiana University and CDC
- This portion of the presentation briefly looked at other states' plans/ guidelines and numerous publications/periodicals on this issue; it was a consensus that other states, along with SC, have kept pushing this issue down the priority list and have not dealt with it
- Outcome of this Summit of the States was a 3 page white paper (included in packet)
- Dr. Ball emphasized the need for statewide professional and public consensus on the outcome of this Taskforce
- Priority: State Board of Medical Examiners approval of altered standards of care
- This Panel disagreed with CDC's priorities for vaccine distribution

## **Dr. Walter Limehouse: MUH Disaster Triage Policy**

- This policy is conceptual and the Taskforce will be the implementation process
- This policy can also pertain to other mass casualty events – not just Pan Flu

After the lunch break, the afternoon resumed with open discussion of the morning's presentations as well as establishing goals, objectives and setting the framework for developing the full TaskForce. This discussion was led by Dr. Ball and Dr. Learner.

### **Points of Discussion:**

- ✓ Jane Richter brought up the point that she is concerned that once the doctors assess patients and leave, how the nurses will continue handling the patients ?
- ✓ Dr. Ball: at what point do we involved the public/news media and how much does the public need to know ?
- ✓ Regarding healthcare workers – what can this committee do to ensure COOP ? to include PPE, vaccines, antivirals, etc
- ✓ The whole committee needs to agree on definitions, i.e., rationing, distributive justice
- ✓ Need to address public health and clinical processes
- ✓ Can we develop a link on DHEC's website ?
- ✓ Discuss future participants for the full TaskForce
- ✓ Develop agenda for the TaskForce meeting at the next Steering Committee meeting
- ✓ Steve Williams volunteered to chair a workgroup, along with Matthew Penn, to improve the legal framework for public health and medical response to pan flu; will review Emergency Health Powers Act
- ✓ Would taking a regulatory approach through DHEC be a better avenue rather than proposed legislation ?
- ✓ What is the function and expected outcome from gathering broad public input ?

### **Action Items:**

- ✓ Dr. Ball requested Steering Committee members to review and update their contact information and submit changes to him
- ✓ Committee members were asked to review documents located on the CD given as a handout

- ✓ Either Donna Culbreath or Phyllis Beasley will send out the minutes and updated contact information sheet before next scheduled Steering Committee meeting
- ✓ Establish workgroups at next Steering Committee meeting and agenda for the first meeting of the full TaskForce
- ✓ Hold TaskForce meeting in conjunction with Pan Flu Coordinating Council meeting since numerous members will overlap

**Typed notes from the afternoon working session are attached.**

**Meeting Dates: SC Hospital Association, 1000 Center Point Rd, Columbia**

- . Steering Committee: October 30, 2008, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- . Full Taskforce: November 19, 2008, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

#### **Handouts:**

- . October 6, 2008 Steering Committee meeting agenda
- . Power point presentations (3)
- . CD – Pan Flu Ethics Information with Bibliography
- . SC Prepares: Pandemic Influenza Progress Report, 2007
- . Steering Committee Participant List
- . Confronting the Ethics of Pandemic Influenza Planning: The 2008 Summit of the States
- . Dr. Ball's notes from Summit